Remarks

Claims 1-23 and 25 are pending in this application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 10, and 16 have been amended.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-6, 8-21, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,671,756 issued to Thomas. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. MPEP § 2131.

Thomas discloses a KVM switch that can accommodate multiple users and multiple computers. Thomas, Abstract. Mentioned in the Background section, each of the computers is connected to the KVM switch using one or more physical cables. Peripheral devices such as a local user's mouse, display, and keyboard are connected to the KVM switch using physical cables. Using an extender, a remote user connects peripheral devices to the KVM switch preferably using CAT 5 cable. Alternatively, the remote user could connect the peripheral devices to the KVM switch via a fibre optic, integral waveguide, or wireless connection. Thomas, col. 2, lines 1-13. Thomas makes no further mention (or even a hint) of wireless communication or components required to implement such a connection.

The Examiner appears to be misinterpreting Thomas' reference to wireless communication in lines 8-10 of column 2. Throughout the office action the Examiner mistakenly asserts that because Thomas uses the phrase "wireless communication" in the background section, Thomas somehow inherently teaches wireless communication between a switching device and a computing device in the various manners recited in the claims of the present application.

Thomas' KVM switch (2) provides access to a remote user of a workstation such as the peripherals of workstation (7) as seen in Thomas, Fig. 6. Thomas's background states that this connection is accomplished preferably using CAT5 cable. Thomas, col. 2, lines 3-8. As an alternative to the preferred CAT5 cable, Thomas states (without enablement) that the connection between the KVM switch (2) and the peripherals or a remote workstation can be accomplished via wireless communication. Thomas, col. 2, lines 8-10.

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The Examiner seems to focus only on lines 8-10 of column 2 and mistakenly infers that Thomas's KVM switch (2) is somehow capable of wireless communication with a computing device such as Thomas's computing devices (13) seen best in Thomas, Fig 6. This is plainly not the case. Thomas explicitly requires a physical cable (such as cable (14) seen best in Thomas, Fig. 2) to enable communication between its switch (2) and its computing devices (13).

The Applicant respectfully asks that the Examiner consider Thomas as a whole when considering the present application.

Claim 1 is directed to a switching device that includes the following combination of elements:

1. a transmitter and a receiver operable to provide wireless communication between the switching device and a selected one of a plurality of available computing devices and between the switching device and a peripheral device;

2. a computer readable medium having instructions for:

    a. maintaining a list of the available computing devices;

    b. receiving a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and

    c. utilizing the transmitter and the receiver to establish a first wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices;

3. a processor operable to execute the instructions.

Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that those instructions are for using the transmitter and the receiver to establish a first wireless link and a second wireless link. The first wireless link is between the peripheral device and the switching device. The second wireless link is between the switching device and a computing device.

The Examiner mistakenly asserts that Thomas teaches a switching device

that includes a computer readable medium with instructions for utilizing the transmitter and the receiver to establish a wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices. The passage in Thomas relied upon by the Examiner in support of this assertion is reproduced as follows:

> The connections between the switch 2 and the computers 13 are illustrated in FIG. 2. There, one of the computers 13, namely computer 13A is illustrated connected to the switch 2 via cable 14. The computer 13A is a standard over-the-counter computer having keyboard and mouse ports 15 and a video card having external video ports 16. Cable 14 includes standard keyboard and mouse connectors to connect into keyboard mouse port 15 and a standard video monitor cable to connect into the video port 16. At an opposite end of the cable 14, the cables are connected to a computer port 29A of the switch 2. Eight computer ports are provided in the illustrated switch 2 of FIG. 2, although any number of other ports can be supported by the present invention, depending only on the architecture desired. Thus, although the 2x8 switch in FIGS. 1 and 2 is used for illustrative purposes, any other combination of user numbers and computers numbers can be accommodated by the switch 2.

> Using the connections of FIG. 2, the switch 2 provides keyboard, mouse, and monitor signals via the port 29A to the computer 13A via the cable 14. The computer 13A receives the keyboard, mouse, and video signals (and also transmits appropriate signals to the switch 2) such that the computer 13A is unaware that it is speaking to a KVM switch 2 rather than to an actual keyboard, video, and mouse peripheral. Thus, the switch 2 provides the necessary initiation procedures for the keyboard, mouse, and video protocols demanded by the computer 13A during its boot-up operation.

Thomas, col. 4, line 59 through col. 5, line 20.

Nothing in the cited passage provides even a remote hint of a second wireless connection between the switching device and a computing device selected from a list. The only specific reference in the passage regarding the link between the switch (2) and a computer (13) is physical cable (14). Thomas, Fig. 2, reproduced below, clearly illustrates the physical nature of cable (14).
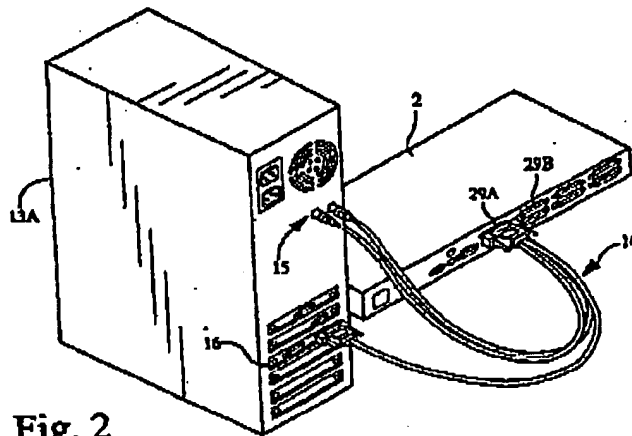
Fig. 2

One end of the cable (14) connects to the physical video mouse and key board ports (15 and 16) of computer (13). The other end connects to one of either physical ports (29) on switch (2).

Thomas Fig. 6 illustrates a remote workstation (7) consisting of a monitor, keyboard and a mouse. The workstation (7) is physically coupled to the switch (2) using an extender 11 and line 12. Line 12 is described as a CAT5 or fibre optic cable. Thomas, col. 3, lines 43-51. Thomas' background (col. 2, lines 1-13) hints that line 12 may be a wireless connection.

That being said, Thomas provides no enablement for or suggestion of a wireless connection between switch (2) and computers (13). Consequently, Thomas does not anticipate Claim 1 because Thomas does not expressly or inherently describe one or more elements as set forth in Claim 1. For at least these reasons Claim 1 is patentable over Thomas as are Claims 2-9 which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 10 is directed to a computing system and recites the following combination of elements:

1. multiple computing devices, each of which being configured for wireless communication;

2. one or more peripheral devices configured to wirelessly receive and/or transmit data; and

3. a switching device configured to:

    a. maintain a list of available computing devices from among the

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multiple computing devices;

b. receive a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and

c. establish a first wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling wireless user interaction.

As with Claim 1, Thomas toes not teach or suggest a switching device configured to establish a first wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling wireless user interaction. Specifically Thomas fails to teach or suggest a switching device capable of establishing a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device. Thomas' switch (2) requires a physical cable (14) for such a connection.

For at least these reasons, Claim 10 is patentable over Thomas as are Claims 11-15 which depend from Claim 10.

Claim 16 is directed to a computing system and recites the following elements:

1. multiple computing devices, each of which being configured for wireless communication;

2. one or more peripheral devices configured to wirelessly receive and/or transmit data and linkable with the computing devices for data exchange; and

3. a switching device configured to

a. wirelessly receive and transmit data from and to the peripherals and the computing devices

b. maintain a list of available computing devices from among the multiple computing devices;

c. receive a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and

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d. establish a first wireless link between the one or more peripheral
devices and the switching device and a second wireless link
between the switching device and a computing device selected
from the list of available computing devices enabling user
interaction with the computing devices.

Again, Thomas's switch (2) is not configured to establish a second wireless link
between itself and a computing device selected from the list of available
computing devices. For at least this reason Claim 16 is patentable over Thomas
as are Claims 17-20 which depend from Claim 16.

Claim 21 is directed to a method of controlling multiple computing
devices utilizing a switching device and recites the following acts:
1. establishing a first wireless link with a peripheral device;
2. maintaining a list of available computing devices;
3. receiving data from a user, the data being associated with a user
   selection of an available computing device from the list;
4. using the received data to select a computing device;
5. establishing a second wireless link with the selected computing device;
   and
6. permitting the user to interact with the selected computing device via said
   first and second wireless links.

As made clear above, Thomas' switch (2) requires a physical connection via
cable (14) with computers (13). Consequently, Thomas fails to teach a method
in which a second wireless link is established with a selected computing device
so that a user is permitted to interact with the selected computing device via
first and second wireless links.

For at least these reasons, Claim 21 is patentable over Thomas as are
Claims 22-23 which depend from Claim 21

Claim 25 is directed to one or more readable media having instructions
thereon which, when executed by a switching device, cause the switching

device to implement the method of Claim 21. For the same reasons Claim 21 is patentable, so is Claim 25.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 7 and 22 under §103 citing Thomas in view of USPN 6,664,949 issued to Amro. Claim 7 depends from Claim 1 and Claim 22 depends from Claim 21. For the same reasons Claim 1 and 22 distinguish over Thomas, Claims 7 and 22 distinguish over Thomas and Amro.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-23 and 25 define allowable subject matter. The Examiner is requested to indicate the allowability of all claims in the application and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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